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Flood Prevention Project

Pembers who have given the Ocean Drive flooding problem any thought at all have surely wondered when work would start. As favorable weather in August and September gave way to October's onslaughts of rain, worries built about wasting valuable time. Grumbles could be heard that the board did not seem to be doing anything and that bad weather could soon make work impossible.

The Preparations

Those of little faith should know that a project of such magnitude is not organized overnight or even in a matter of weeks. It has taken several months to do the required surveying, to get all the public agency permits and secure easements from the owners whose land will carry the pipes over the dune to disperse pumped water. Engineers had to draw up detailed specifications for every phase of the work and each piece of equipment needed. Bids had to be requested, received and evaluated.

Five local contractors submitted bids, the lowest was chosen by board vote in con-

sultation with HLB engineers, and the contract with Hughes Excavation of Astoria was signed on December 15. Work was to start immediately and it did. The accompanying photo shows the first sump being

installed the third week of December at the south end of Ocean Drive for pump station #1.

The Bucks

Total cost of construction, excluding engineering fees and other project related expenses, is \$186,295. Providing power

see Drainage, page 3

When a sump was installed on Ocean Drive, water level in the area already had risen to within six feet of road grade level.



Association News

Correction

The October *Breeze* misidentified two board members on the photos on page 3. Ralph Todd, first on the left of the left photo, was called Bob Chopping, who in fact is the middle person seen in the right picture. We, the editors, humbly apologize to both gentlemen.

Firewood Offer

Without doubt the next few months will take their toll of Surf Pines trees. Robert Stineman of Young's River

Trees has offered to cut trees blown down on

Surf Pines rights-of-way into 18" lengths and deliver the wood to any resident who wants it—free of charge. If you can use cut logs or know someone who needs them, Robert will deliver them instead of hauling them to the burn pile. Just call 325-5564.

Phone Directories

In October's *The Breeze*, residents whose phone numbers or addresses were incorrect in the newly-updated *Surf Pines Association Phone Directory* were invited to call or email Lani Johnson (lanjohns@OregonVOS.net, 738-9746) with corrections. That was fine, as far as it went.

However, if you haven't received your copy or wish an extra, get in touch with Tom Smith, the association's secretary. Lani has only one copy—her own—on hand.

In case you own bare land in Surf Pines and wonder what all this phone book verbiage is about, it bears mentioning that the board considered homeowners more likely to have use for such a list than members with unimproved lots. With the plethora of paper one receives nowadays, the board spared landowners. However, if you are a member of Surf Pines Association and wish a copy of the directory, let Tom Smith know (toms@sunsetbeach-OR.com, 738-7573).

Directories are not to be used for commercial purposes.

Lost Item Sought: "The Carpet Map"

Once upon a decade or more ago there existed a set of large (approximately 24" x 30") plat maps of Surf Pines. mounted on board and bound together with a protective cover of a carpet sample. The maps were copies of pages from the assessor's official maps and are expensive to reproduce. They are usefully easy to read. Somehow they have disappeared and are nowhere to be found in the association's files. If any member has an idea where these maps may be found, the board would be very grateful for information leading to their recovery. Just contact any board member if you have a clue where they might be.

Gates and Security

et weather is having an adverse effect on gate function, as many residents will have noticed. The north gate key pad has deteriorated to such an extent that, especially when it is raining, many of the numbers do not function. The pad must be replaced. At the same time, Gene Keever has been modifying new logic boards to replace the increasingly illogical one at the south gate. The originals are not available any more, so the new ones must be adapted to work in a ten-year-old system. It is a painstaking job, but Gene hopes ultimately to have a supply of usable boards for both gates.

Since homeowners have started giving the monthly codes to casual visitors and ser-

vice people, there has been less misuse of the gates. Special codes for the next three months, which are also listed on your bills, are: January–1709; February–1975; March– 2091. Remember to post them where you can find them easily when needed.

Residents seem to have trouble remembering how to open the south gate if a visitor telephones to request entry from the gate phone. Ken Buckingham will be calling householders over the next few months to go over the system again, so that everyone will know what button to press on their home phones to open the gate. **Hint:** 9, and hold it for 2 seconds

Drainage, from page 1

lines for the pumping stations will cost \$18,304. Weather and conditions permitting, work should be completed in 60 days. The forecast for clear, dry weather from December 21 for the rest of the week provided optimum conditions to start digging as soon as the first materials were delivered.

The Work

In brief, the project involves placing culverts under Horizon and High Surf and at the south end of Ocean to facilitate wetland drainage. Three pump stations—#1 at the bottom of Ocean, #2 about 100 yards south of the High Surf junction on Ocean, and #3 on the north side of the Horizon right of way east of Ocean—have been created.

Eight-inch pipes will carry the water from the pumps under the roads across the foredune to be dispersed underground into the sand. With continued favorable weather, the contractor hopes to install the piping before renewed rains hamper work. The engineers believe that these measures should prevent any foreseeable road or home flooding on Ocean Drive, but it will be a race against time and weather.

The board has asked Ken Weber as project manager for roads and grounds to be point man for the association with the contractor to assure that all goes smoothly.

The Hassle

There may be periods when work will interrupt traffic flow on Ocean Drive, Horizon and High Surf. Every effort will be made through signs at the gates to inform residents if any potions of the road will be blocked. Members' patience and cooperation will be needed and appreciated.

Since Hughes' employees will be intent on completing the job as soon as possible, they ask not to be distracted by conversation with residents. If you have any questions or problems at any time during the work, please take them up with either Ken Weber (738-5986) or Al Laakso (861-9396), who is board chairman for roads and grounds. Please do not take out any frustrations you may have on the workers.



The picture above shows the first sump being lowered into the ground. Placed at the south end of Ocean, where some of the worst of last year's flooding occurred, it will collect ground water as the level rises. The pump associated with it will work when the level reaches several inches above the sump's top, but is still below the road surface. There must be enough water to keep the pump working. Underground pipes will carry the water out into the sand of the foredune. Peering in at the operation from the right of the photo is Al Laakso.

Professional

Administration

fter interviewing four candidates for the position of administrator, the board has offered a six-month contract to Bill Barrons of Astoria. Many residents will know Mr. Barrons as the recently-retired county manager who preceded Britt Ferguson. He served Clatsop County as its first manager after the Home Rule Charter was adopted in 1989 and retired from the position about three years ago. He graduated from Michigan State University in 1958 with a degree in political science and his career in city and county government spans 32 years.

The contract specifies 20 hours of work per week for the period from January 1 to June 30, 2000. At the end of the fiscal year, the board will evaluate the position and the association's needs and make an appropriate recommendation to the members for the next year. Mr. Barrons will work closely with board officers as he becomes acquainted with Surf Pines. His duties will include maintaining membership records; overseeing billing and payment records; keeping files in order; tracking ownership changes; updating and expanding the handbook; organizing work to be carried out on Surf Pines property, such as mowing and road repairs; working with contractors to maintain gates; and other tasks as the board directs. The arrangement is a trial to permit both parties to assess current need and future administrative requirements.



Welcome to the New Year, Decade, Century, Millennium

Since members of the water board had nothing to report in their Pipeline, they join us in wishing each and all members of both associations a propitious start to year 2000 (on some calendars) and the best of neighbors and community throughout the new millennium.

Surf Dings Association Roard of Directors

President Vice President At Large At Large

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Members are invited to contribute articles or comments, letters to the editor, or anything fit to print. Don't hesitate - shoot the Breeze

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